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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,377	06/30/2003	Yuuji Minami	239622US2	7946
22850	7590	12/09/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			TSAI, CAROL S W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2857	

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,377

Applicant(s)

MINAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Carol S Tsai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 9, 10 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/30/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the blank boxes shown should be labeled as to their function, for example: element Z3 in Figs. 1 and 2, as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Publication 2002/0116092 to Hamamatsu et al.

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Hamamatsu et al. disclose digital protection and control device, comprising: a digital data merging unit (merging unit 39 shown on Fig. 30) configured to take in, via a transmission medium (transmission line 26 shown on Fig. 16), digital output from one sensor unit or a plurality of sensor units (sensors 28 shown on Fig 30) detecting AC electricity quantities of main circuits of substation main equipment (substation main-circuit component 25 shown on Fig. 44) and to merge the inputted digital data (see paragraphs 0085, 0086, and 0199-0204); a protection and control unit (PCU (protecting-and-controlling unit) 23 shown on Fig. 30) configured to output a control signal for

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protection and control of said substation main equipment based on the digital data outputted from said digital data merging unit (see paragraphs 0140-0152, 0206, and 0325); a communication unit (communication unit 32 c shown on Fig. 7) for component control devices configured to transmit to said protection and control unit component monitor data outputted from one component control device or a plurality of component control devices controlling said substation main equipment, and to transmit the control signal outputted from said protection and control unit to said component control device(s), the component monitor data and the control signal being transmitted via a transmission medium (see Figs. 6-8 and paragraphs 0121-0128); a process bus communication unit (process bus communication means 43 shown on Fig. 30) configured to relay data to/from at least a part of said protection and control unit, said communication unit for component control devices, and said digital data merging unit from/to an external process bus (see paragraph 0325); and a parallel transmission medium (parallel bus 45 shown on Fig. 30) configured to couple at least parts of said digital data merging unit, said protection and control unit, said communication unit for component control devices, and said process bus communication unit to one another, wherein data exchange among at least parts of said digital data merging unit, said protection and control unit, said communication unit for component control devices, and said process bus communication unit is based on a multimaster mode (see Fig. 30 and paragraphs 0324, 0325, 0327, 0329, 0342, 0348, and 0349).

As to claim 2, Hamamatsu et al. also disclose said process bus communication unit being based on a single master mode instead of the multimaster mode (see paragraph 0150).

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As to claim 3, Hamamatsu et al. also disclose a transmission bus in said process bus communication unit being based on a common transmission mode, and the transmission bus in said process bus communication unit having a bridge (see paragraphs 0133 and 0135).

As to claim 7, Hamamatsu et al. also disclose transmits said control signal with a predetermined period, and said component control device monitors said substation main equipment based on a timing at which said component control device receives the control signal (see paragraph 0151).

As to claims 9 and 10, Hamamatsu et al. also disclose a mechanical or static relay section configured to ON/OFF output the control signal to said component control device; and an insulated input section configured to ON/OFF input said data input thereto from said component control device (see paragraphs 0425-0428, 0446-0449. and 0458-0466).

As to claim 13, Hamamatsu et al. also disclose said protection and control unit being divided into a device having a protection function and not having a control function and a device having the control function and not having the protection function (see paragraph 0157).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hart discloses a sensor apparatus for monitoring voltage and/or current in an electric circuit and a system for monitoring voltages and currents in a system wherein electricity is distributed in a plurality of circuits.

Sekiguchi et al. disclose an electric power system protection and control system, including, a plurality of protection controllers, each for executing protection and control of an electric power system by inputting a status quantity of the electric power system and for converting the status quantity into digital data, and a display controller connected to each of the protection controllers via a communication network, for displaying and controlling an operation and status of each of the protection controllers for monitoring.

Maeda et al. disclose in the electric power system protective control system, a plurality of protective control apparatuses each has a protective control function to an electric power system being distributed and connected through a communication network to each other so that data communication is permitted among the respective protective control apparatuses.

Shirota et al. disclose a control system for a plant comprising a rectifier connected to a network.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. W. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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2224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1585 or (571) 272-2800.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.



Carol S. W. Tsai
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2857

11/30/04